



Dream
Inspiration of the month

In her 70x40-foot Millbrook, NY, garden, interior designer Katie Ridder created an outdoor room where abundance is everything. "I didn't want a clipped, manicured, expected garden I'd have to stake within an inch of its life. I wanted a wild, blousy garden," she says. The ultraminimalist design of the pergola makes it almost disappear within the enveloping growth.

Sitting PRETTY

We're enchanted by this pergola-topped oasis tucked within a whimsical garden, with its wildly clambering flowers and joyful chaos all around.



The Dream List

Towering plants
create a natural screen
around the pergola,
designed by Ridder's
husband, architect
Peter Pennoyer.



1 KEEP IT SIMPLE

While a pergola could be the star of the show, here it serves as the foil for the riot of garden surrounding it. The structure's clean lines and understated design balance out the unruliness of the plantings.

2 LET LOOSE

Ridder shows no restraint in the garden. "I want the pathways to get narrower and narrower as the season goes on," she says. She achieves density by overplanting, mixing perennials like heuchera and baptisia with annuals like poppies and zinnias, and including towering plants like amaranth and tithonia for an enveloping feel.

3 SEEK BALANCE

In addition to the pergola, the surrounding hornbeam hedge (which hides a deer fence) defines the outdoor room and adds a sense of order that balances the wildness of the garden. Boxwoods placed in corners anchor the planting beds and give the garden year-round structure.

4 GO HIGH

Ridder makes full use of vertical space with metal wire on the pergola acting as a trellis for climbing roses, clematis, sweet pea, morning glory, and white wisteria. "They're all mixed together," she says, noting that even "clematis skeletons become trellising for sweet peas."

shopping Under Cover

A pergola instantly gives an outdoor seating area a roomlike feel. Consider these styles and materials.



MODERN METAL

Brown Metal Freestanding Pergola with Canopy (10'x7'x10'), \$369; lowes.com



CLASSIC WOOD

Veikous Cedar Wood Pergola with Flat Roof (10'x7.7'x12'), \$600; walmart.com



TRAD GOES VINYL

Regency White Vinyl Flat-Top Pergola with Trellis (12'x9'x12'), \$1,202; homedepot.com



A HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY

Dive deeper in Ridder and Pennoyer's book, which includes a detailed pullout plan of the garden. \$55; amazon.com ■